

Needs and Assets Report Snapshot
La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

Handout 1

DEMOGRAPHICS		
Regional Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of a total population of 211,436 in the region, 13,397 were children ages birth-five (6%). 65% of children ages birth-four in the region were White, 28% were of Hispanic/Latino origin, 2% were Native American, 1% were African American, and 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander. The Colorado City-Centennial Park area had the highest percentage of households with children under six (68%), followed by the Arizona part of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (17%). 	<p>p. 25</p> <p>p. 35</p> <p>p. 25</p>
Economic Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An estimated 37% of children in the region lived in poverty, higher than the state as a whole (27%). 44% of children ages birth-five in La Paz County lived in poverty; 36% in Mohave County. Median family income was \$40,786 in La Paz County, \$46,594 in Mohave County, \$59,563 in the state. 7,217 (54%) children birth-five received SNAP; 4,295 (39%) received WIC; and 394 (3%) received TANF. 	<p>p. 40</p> <p>p. 42</p> <p>p. 50</p>
Family Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9,129 families have children under age six (10% of households in the region). Most young children – 80% of children birth to-five – live with at least one of their parents. Of the 20% of children not living with their parents, 17% are living with other relatives such as grandparents, uncles, or aunts, and 3% live with non-relatives. Six areas in the region have a higher percent of young children living with their grandparents than the state as a whole (14%). 	<p>p. 25</p> <p>p. 30</p> <p>p. 32</p>
EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM		
Early Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 67 licensed child care centers in the region, down from 86 in 2011. 9 Head Start centers serve 272 of 4,601 three and four year old children in the region (6%). Total licensed capacity for child care dropped from 3,817 in 2011 to 3,195 in 2014. An estimated 80% of children ages birth-five are in family, friend and neighbor settings. <p><u>Recommendations from Key Informants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the possibility of expansion of preschool, Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the region. Explore options for partnering to provide transportation between half-day district and Head Start programs and child care centers. The lack of transportation between these settings is a large barrier to utilizing these services for working families. 	<p>p. 67</p> <p>p. 70</p>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of La Paz County and most of Mohave County (except Bullhead and Lake Havasu) are designated “medically underserved.” The entire region is designated a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area and much of the region is designated a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area. 1,750 births in the region in 2012, which continued a downward trend since 2009. 83% of women in the region receive early prenatal care. Tobacco use during pregnancy in the region (14%) is much higher than the state as a whole (4%). 	<p>p. 86</p> <p>p. 89</p> <p>p. 91</p> <p>p. 99</p> <p>p. 117</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age-adjusted mortality rate for alcohol-induced deaths is 14.2/100,000 in the state. Mohave County is slightly higher at 14.7/100,000; La Paz County is much higher at 41.3/100,000. For women only, the age-adjusted mortality rate for alcohol-induced deaths for the state was 7.7/100,000; but 54.9/100,000 in La Paz County, the highest for any county in the state. <p><u>Recommendations from Key Informants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue and expand educational opportunities for early childhood providers and educators on mental health and special needs topics. Promote degree and certification programs to prepare the local early childhood workforce; in particular, with coursework in mental health, services for children with special needs and case management. 	
Family Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2013, 109 children birth-five in the region were in foster care; 108 in 2012, and 132 in 2011 (17% decrease from 2011-2013). In La Paz County, 8% of youth indicated that they currently had an incarcerated parent, and 29% indicated that they had a parent who had previously been incarcerated. These numbers were lower in Mohave County (4% and 21% respectively). Families in the region were more likely to report reading to their children (58%), telling stories to their children (54%) and drawing with their child (50%) six or seven days a week compared to families across the state (51%, 51% and 47% respectively). <p><u>Recommendations from Key Informants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued efforts are needed to reduce duplication of home visitation services; better coordinate care for families; address application fatigue; and improve referral mechanisms, especially in Lake Havasu, Bullhead and Kingman. The possibility of offering additional support services targeted to more remote areas should also be explored. 	<p>p. 119 p. 125 p. 132</p>
Outreach & Awareness	<p>Results of the 2012 First Things First Family and Community Survey demonstrated higher levels of satisfaction with available information and resources and agreement with ease of locating services, compared to the state. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48% of respondents indicated they were “very satisfied” with “the community information and resources available to them about their children’s development and health,” compared to 39% of respondents across the state. 81% of respondents “strongly” or “somewhat agreed” that “it is easy to locate services that I want or need,” compared to 74% of respondents across the state (see Figure 53). <p><u>Recommendations from Key Informants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue outreach efforts to promote existing health, education and family support programs and services. Promote more outreach among agencies and to families about what is available, through health and community fairs, local resource guides, referral networks, radio and print media, and social networks. Increase outreach to schools, churches, businesses, and service organizations who may be able to share information. Local, city-level boards or coalitions can help lead and foster these efforts. 	<p>p. 138</p>

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Please Note: Data often varies within the region at the community level. The 2014 Regional Needs and Assets Report provides more detailed information for ten geographic areas (subdivisions of the region).

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